



Admission Arrangements for Ambitious College

It's essential to make the right choice when looking for a Further Education college that supports and safeguards young people with complex autism.

There are a number of important factors to consider including the content of the curriculum, the level of independence training, the safety of the environment as well as a clear focus on providing high quality health and care services.¹

[Ambitious College](#) provides specialist support to enable young people with complex autism to access further education in their local community. The aim of the college is to enable our learners to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to make a successful transition to adulthood and to live, work and contribute as part of their community.

Who is Ambitious College suitable for?

Ambitious College is a specialist further education day college for learners with complex autism, aged 16-25 years. It is co-located on the Grahame Park campus of Barnet and Southgate College.

Ambitious College admits young people who require specialist provision, but who may proceed to different levels of inclusion in mainstream further education.

Ambitious College can admit learners where the college is named on the Local Authority Statement of Special Educational Needs/Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or the Learning Difficulty Assessment - which is also known as a 139A. However, we can also, in consultation with the local authority, provide places for learners who do not have these documents.

Can learners start at any time of the year?

Places are usually taken up at the start of the academic year but can be accessed at any time of the year by arrangement with the Principal.

What is the admission process?

- a parent / carer or local authority is welcome to attend our Open Days. These are advertised on our website
- at the open day participants will be given information to take away to support them make an informed decision about the next step
- if an application is to be pursued, parents/carers ring our Admissions Team and confirm they would like to proceed with an application
- parents are sent two sets of forms to complete and return. They are also sent guidance on completing the forms

¹ Ambitious College is Care Quality Commission (CQC) registered

- once the forms are sent back, the assessment team at the college will then arrange an observation of the young person in their usual day setting and at home
- all the information is collated and the Admissions Officer will present it to the College Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
- the SLT will make a decision on whether or not we can meet the young person's learning and support needs
- if the assessment confirms that the college can meet the young person's learning and support needs, parents will be informed
- all the collated information will be reviewed and an individualised Study Programme written
- the college will then share the draft Study Programme with the family for approval
- once approved by the family, the college sends the final copy of the Study Programme to the local authority along with a cost for them to make a decision
- once approved by the local authority, contracts are signed and transition arrangements are put in place.

What factors do the College take into account?

To make sure that Ambitious College can meet the young person's needs, we take into account whether;

- the College is suitable for the young person's age, ability, aptitude and Special Educational Needs
- parents/carers have expressed a preference for the college (or in cases of dispute the LA intends to name the college on the Statement/EHCP/139A or Learning Disability Assessment)
- the young person has a statement of Special Educational Needs/EHCP or Learning Disability Assessment indicating Autism Spectrum Disorder as the primary diagnosis
- the young person's placement is compatible with the education of other young learners at the College
- additional supervision might be required for a young person whose safety or that of others is unusually at risk. This would be individually assessed.

Appeal Arrangements

The SEN Code of Practice entitles parents and carers to appeal to the SEN and Disability Tribunal if their local authority refuses to name the college in their young person's Statement/EHCP or Learning Difficulty Assessment. You can find out more about this process at: www.justice.gov.uk/forms/hmcts/send

Need more information?

If you have any questions about admissions, please do get in touch with us:

Email: Linda Crewes (lcrewes@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk)

Telephone 020 8815 5444 and ask to speak to Linda Crewes